

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16-19, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 29-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS claims 16, 23, 26, and 29; CANCELS claims 20-22, 25, and 28; and ADDS claims 32 and 33.

Support for new claims 32 and 33 can be found in, for example, Applicant's previously filed claim 16.

Applicant affirms election of Species 5, including claims 16, 17, 23, 26, and 29-31.

Non-elected claims 18, 19, 24, and 27 are dependent upon generic claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner rejoin and allow non-elected claims 18, 19, 24, and 27 when generic claim 16 is allowed.

Claims 16, 17, 30, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fan (U.S. 2003/0142487). Claims 16, 17, 23, and 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wakabayashi et al. (U.S. 7,314,288). Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakabayashi et al. in view of Kimura et al. (U.S. 7,204,635).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 16, 17, 23, 26, and 29-31.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite:

A lighting device for display devices, comprising:
a light source lamp having one of a curved portion and a folded portion; and
a reflective member provided with a light reducing treatment on a side opposed to the display side of at least part of the curved portion or the folded portion of the light source lamp; wherein
at least part of the light generated from the one of the curved portion and the folded portion of the light source lamp is reduced or shielded; and
at least part of the one of the curved portion and the folded portion of the light source lamp is covered with a lamp frame. (emphasis added)

With the unique combination and arrangement of features recited in Applicant's claim 16, including the features of "a reflective member provided with a light reducing treatment on a side opposed to the display side of at least part of the curved portion or the folded portion of

the light source lamp” and “at least part of the one of the curved portion and the folded portion of the light source lamp is covered with a lamp frame,” Applicant has been able to provide a lighting device that has a reduced number of components and is effective in terms of electric power consumption and excellent display quality (see, for example, paragraph [0008] of Applicant’s specification).

The Examiner alleged that each of Fan and Wakabayashi et al. teaches all of the features recited in Applicant’s claim 16. More specifically, the Examiner alleged that “Fan discloses in paragraph 0004 a diffuser plate with elongated lamps underneath. Fan further shows in Fig.3 the curved and folded portion (332) of the lamp outside the display area (32) and discloses in paragraph 0019 that having the dense luminance portion (332) sheltered by the lamp frame are in the scope of his invention,” and that “Fig. 13 [of Wakabayashi et al.] shows a reflective sheet member (81) with a light reducing treatment (92) at the curved portion of the lamp.”

Applicant has amended claim 16 to recite the feature of “a reflective member provided with a light reducing treatment on a side opposed to the display side of at least part of the curved portion or the folded portion of the light source lamp.” Support for this feature is found, for example, in paragraph [0058] of Applicant’s specification and in Applicant’s previously presented claim 22.

Fan appears to teach that the bent portions 332 are covered by a frame, as shown in Fig. 3 and described in paragraphs [0018] and [0019] of Fan. However, Fan does not teach or suggest anything about a light reducing treatment.

Wakabayashi et al. teaches that bent portions 91 of U-shaped lamps 83a and 83b are located at a central portion of a screen, and include a diffusion area 95 arranged at a location that corresponds to the bent portions 91, as shown in Fig. 13 of Wakabayashi et al. However, Wakabayashi does not teach or suggest a frame portion covering at least a part of the curved portion.

Neither Fan nor Wakabayashi et al. teaches or suggests both a frame covering a part of a bent portion of a lamp, and a light-reducing treatment on a side opposed to the bent portion.

In fact, by placing the its bent portions 91 in the middle of a viewing screen, Wakabayashi et al. effectively teaches away from including a frame covering a part of the bent portions.

Thus, Fan and Wakabayashi et al. both clearly fail to teach or suggest the features of “a reflective member provided with a light reducing treatment on a side opposed to the display side of at least part of the curved portion or the folded portion of the light source lamp” and “at least part of the one of the curved portion and the folded portion of the light source lamp is covered with a lamp frame,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 16.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fan, and the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wakabayashi et al.

The Examiner relied upon Kimura et al. to allegedly cure the deficiencies of Fan and Wakabayashi et al. However, Kimura et al. also clearly fails to teach or suggest the features of “a reflective member provided with a light reducing treatment on a side opposed to the display side of at least part of the curved portion or the folded portion of the light source lamp” and “at least part of the one of the curved portion and the folded portion of the light source lamp is covered with a lamp frame,” as recited in Applicant’s claim 16. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Kimura et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Fan and Wakabayashi et al. described above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Fan, Wakabayashi et al. and Kimura et al., applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in Applicant’s claim 16.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is allowable. Claims 17, 23, 26, and 29-31 depend upon claim 16, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 16 is allowable.

In addition, since generic claim 16 is allowable, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner rejoin and allow non-elected claims 18, 19, 24, and 27.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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